



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of
Representative Matthew Lesser, 100th District

In Support of SB 42, An Act Concerning Gun Safety Standards for Firing Ranges
February 10, 2011

Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and the honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I represent the 100th House District, which includes the towns of Durham and Middlefield and portions of Middletown.

I would like to apologize for my absence at this public hearing, but due to a prior commitment in my district I am unable to attend in person.

I am writing to express my support for SB 42.

My familiarity with this issue stems from a long history of safety issues surrounding the Blue Trail Range in Wallingford affecting adjacent residential areas in Durham.

This legislation would require that Connecticut firing ranges meet safety standards.

Currently, there are no safety standards for firing ranges under Connecticut law.

I would urge the Committee to consider in particular the fire range safety guidelines set forth by the US Air Force (ETL 08-11 Small Arms Range Design and Construction) and the National Rifle Association as possible models. Firing ranges can and should be constructed with the safety of surrounding communities in mind.

Doing so would increase safety and peace of mind for area residents and property owners. Additionally, it would also be in the best interests of target shooters and range owners by replacing the current scheme, essentially regulation through litigation, with a more predictable and less costly alternative.

Additionally, I would urge the committee to consider the question of liability protections, in whole or in part, for range owners who have ensured that their ranges meet these standards.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matthew Lesser
State Representative